IN THE CLAIMS:

1 – 20 (canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A system for providing a telephone service in a digital subscriber loop (DSL) environment, the system comprising:

a signal digitizer coupled between at least one POTS splitter and an ATM switch in the DSL environment, said signal digitizer capable of receiving traffic from ~~one or more signal~~ said at least one POTS splitters, said signal digitizer converting an analog signal into a digital signal in a first format in the event of a failure at a customer site, said first format being an ATM-compatible format; and

said signal digitizer coupling the digital signal in the first format to ~~an~~ the ATM switch connected to a telco switch.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the telephone service is a POTS, said signal digitizer comprising a POTS digitizer.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the analog signal is coupled to the signal digitizer via telephone wires.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said failure at the customer site is a power failure.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A method for providing fault tolerant telephone service in a digital subscriber loop (DSL) environment, comprising the steps of:

receiving an analog telephone signal;

detecting a fault at a customer site;

bypassing a DSL modem upon detection of the fault;

routing the analog telephone signal to a signal digitizer disposed between a POTS splitter and an ATM switch within the DSL environment; and

coupling the digital signal in a first format to ~~an~~ the ATM switch connected to a telco switch.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the telephone service is a POTS.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the detected fault is a power failure at the customer site.

29. (Currently amended) A system for providing POTS telephone service in a digital subscriber loop (DSL) environment, the system having a customer premise equipment (CPE), a plurality of customer telephones connected to the CPE, and at least one POTS splitter connected to the CPE and adapted to connect the CPE to a service provider's DSL network, the system comprising:

a POTS digitizer disposed within the service provider's DSL network and connected to an ATM switch within the DSL network, said POTS digitizer being ~~and~~ capable of receiving traffic from the at least one POTS splitter, said POTS digitizer converting an analog signal into a digital signal in a first format in the event of a power failure at a customer site, said first format being an ATM-compatible format, said POTS digitizer coupling the digital signal in the first format to an ATM switch within the service provider's DSL network.

30. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 29, wherein said POTS digitizer is connected between said at least one POTS splitter and said ATM switch.

31. (New) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a DSL access multiplexer (DSLAM), said POTS digitizer being integrated into said DSLAM.

32. (New) The system according to claim 21, further comprising a DSL access multiplexer (DSLAM), said POTS digitizer being integrated into said DSLAM.

33. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein said signal digitizer is integrated into a DSL access Multiplexer (DSLAM) within the DSL environment.